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Review of *Nothing Happens to Good Girls: Fear of Crime in Women's Lives.* Esther Madriz. Reviewed by Deborah Page Adams, University of Kansas.

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since other sections of the book include content on how to affect change.

Besides the ire that is naturally raised in the reading of this book, its chief criticism is that it is limited in its geographic purview. Most of the activists seem to come from the northeastern United States (Massachusetts, to be specific) and many of the activists seem to be involved in the same few grass roots organizations. This may be a case of natural social selection; the editors of the book seem active on some level in most of the efforts profiled in this text. Whatever the case, it does perhaps raise the concern of over-localization of a decidedly not local issue.

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Esther Madriz, *Nothing Happens to Good Girls: Fear of Crime in Women's Lives*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1997. $40 hardcover.

Studies of domestic and nondomestic crime against women have increased over the past 25 years, but fear of crime and the way it affects women's lives has received less scholarly attention. Fear of crime in women's lives is the topic of this new book by Esther Madriz, a sociologist at the University of San Francisco. *Nothing Bad Happens to Good Girls* follows and extends the work of feminist theorists and researchers including Griffin, Brownmiller, Dworkin, Stanko, Russell, Ehrenreich, and English by focusing on the ways in which fear of crime contributes to the social control of women. The author's attention to the complex relationship between domestic and nondomestic crime along with her exploration of class and race differences in women's fear of crime are among the greatest contributions of the book.

Madriz gathered information from 140 women through eighteen focus groups and thirty in-depth interviews. Although she does not present a systematic analysis of the data, the author does effectively use women's experiences and opinions to illustrate and support her main points. Madriz includes information on her qualitative methodology and critiques quantitative approaches in criminology in a methodological appendix. The appendix is

interesting, though the author could have increased its usefulness by including her focus group and interview guides.

Two central arguments of the book are that fear of crime is socially constructed and that it exerts powerful social and political control over women's lives. Madriz begins by noting that women are more likely than men to express fear of crime despite the fact that men have higher rates of victimization. She then wrestles with this "paradox of fear" by reviewing contributions of previous research, the media, and women's socialization to the social construction of fear of crime. Madriz believes that these influences have the overall effect of exacerbating female fear. Her discussion of the role of the media is especially thorough and she makes a strong case that crimes against women are often misrepresented and distorted by both news and entertainment media. Two prime examples are the tendency of the media to eroticize rape and the consistent media focus on women as victims of strangers, despite the fact that women are much more likely to be assaulted by someone they know.

Turning to her second major point, Madriz argues that "fear of crime is a fundamental element in the social control of women because it organizes consent around a strict code of behavior that 'good women' need to follow" (p. 155). She brings this point home by highlighting the burdens, limitations, and feelings of powerlessness that the fear of crime produce in the everyday lives of women. Madriz is especially effective in describing the relationship between fear of crime and "proper" gender roles, using women's stories to illustrate common restrictions on women's use of public space, choice of attire, involvement in certain activities, and unaccompanied status. While many of these restrictions are self-imposed, the author includes a number of stories about ways in which boyfriends, husbands, and other family members limit women's activities "for their own good." In this way, fear of crime perpetuates gender inequalities at the micro level and simultaneously controls the behavior of whole groups of women in the name of crime prevention.

Madriz also demonstrates that the constraints imposed by fear of crime vary with women's social circumstances. Her focus on class, race, and generational differences and their role in women's fear of crime is one of the strengths of this book. Madriz notes

that women of different races and ethnicities fear different types of crime and that teenage women were more likely than women in other age groups to report that they refuse to let fear of crime rule their lives. Using information from groups of teenage, adult and senior women who are white, African-American and Latina allows Madriz to discuss fear of crime in relationship to social and economic disadvantages that women, and especially women of color, face in the larger society.

Other important contributions of the book include provocative discussions on sexual harassment, "innocent" and "culpable" victims, the US criminal justice system, and fear of crime as a violation of human rights. Madriz makes particularly good use of women's stories in detailing the social effects of fear of crime in women's lives. While she also mentions economic effects, the role of crime against women and women's fear of crime in shaping their economic status in the home and in the larger social structure deserves more scholarly attention.

This book is an important and interesting addition to the modest literature on fear of crime and will be of interest to everyone who is concerned about the well-being of women, crime, or social control. Those teaching courses on violence against women, gender studies, crime and criminal justice, race and ethnicity, qualitative research methods, and social welfare policy will find *Nothing Bad Happens to Good Girls* particularly useful.

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Michael Tonry (Ed.), *Ethnicity, Crime and Immigration: Comparative and Cross-National Perspectives*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 1997. $56.00 hardcover, $22.50 papercover.

In a scholarly collection of papers, Michael Tonry has edited a comparative cross-national perspective on the interrelationship among ethnicity, immigration and crime in nine Western industrialized nations (Australia, Canada, England, France, Germany, Holland, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States). Following a common framework, the authors describe and analyze the overrepresentation of ethnic minorities and/or immigrants in the criminal justice system of these countries. Despite identifying a